CHARTER CHANGES FINISHED

Committee Completes Work and City Attorney Reviews It.

GENERAL TAXES ARE RAISED

Proposed Changes to Be Submitted to the Legislature This Week or Next—Most Funds to Be Increased.

Charter recommendations to be presented to the legislature by the city of Omaha, the result of the co-operative efforts of the mayor, council, heads of city departments, a committee from the Commercial club and a committee from the Real Estate exchange, have been brought to completion. The charter plan is now undergoing review and minor revisions in the office of John A. Rine, city attorney. The recommendations from the city probably will be presented to the legislature late this week or early in the next.

"We have reached what we believe to be a plan which will accomplish at least part of the things we are aiming at," said Mr. Rine. "The plan in hand now has the approval of the various officials and committees which have had a share in the framing of the proposed provisions.

Taxes Are Raised.

The fund to be raised by general taxation for the city has been raised in the new charter plan from $1,000,000 to $1,250,000.

Departmental increases proposed are:
Fire department, from $250,000 to $290,000.
Police department, from $160,000 to $195,000.
Public library, from $30,000 to $40,000.
Street lighting, from $70,000 to $100,000.
Street grading, from $25,000 to $35,000.
Street cleaning, from $60,000 to $100,000.

Proposed provision for the new park fund would make the present maximum of $50,000 the minimum and the new maximum $75,000. The allowance for paving repairs, $50,000, is unchanged.

The new charter plan also provides for an annual tax of from $50,000 to $100,000 to be devoted to the purposes of a bond sinking fund for matured or unmatured city securities. It is further provided that when no such securities shall be available the money may be used for the purchase of city warrants, general or special, thus effecting an economy in interest. The fund of $250,000 which is now known as a sinking fund will be designated "interest fund" under the new charter. This fund has never proven sufficient to accomplish the purpose of a sinking fund.

Garbage Looked After.

Allowance is made for the raising of not to exceed $30,000 annually to be expended in the gathering and disposal of garbage. Another section provides for the voting of bonds for the erection of a garbage incinerating plant.

It is proposed to establish lighting districts in the downtown section of the city for the installation of an ornamental lighting system. The whole cost is to be borne by taxation of the property benefited. One-half of the cost of maintenance and operation will be borne by the property owner and one-half by the city generally.

Interest on city warrants is reduced from 7 to 6 per cent. The mayor and council will be authorized to levy a tax against all vehicles in the city, one-half of the money so collected to go for the repairing of paved streets and one-half to the repairing of unpaved streets.

Another proposed provision is for the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks and weeds from vacant lots at the cost of the property owner. The district in which paving can be ordered by the city council and mayor without petition is extended from 4,500 feet from the city hall in all directions to 7,000. Other street improvement regulations provide for the laying of new base under present pavements with the replacing of the surface at the cost of the property owners, and the grading of the space between the lot line and curb line on paved but ungraded streets together with the laying of sidewalks at the cost of the property owner.

The charter recommendations also propose that at all city elections the polls shall remain open from 6 o'clock in the morning to 7 o'clock in the evening. The hours now are from 8 o'clock in the morning to 6 in the evening.

Coal Baron Cases Put Over, Rush Back

Special Assistant to Attorney General Returns from Seattle, Where the Cases Will Be Heard.

Sylvester R. Rush, special assistant to the attorney general, returned to Omaha Wednesday morning from Seattle, where he went to prosecute some Alaskan coal barons charged with unlawful entry of lands for corporations.

Mr. Rush said the case of the United States against Mundy and others was expected to come to trial, but that Judge Hanford, United States district judge for the District of Washington, continued the case until March 28.

"It was charged," Mr. Rush said, "that these men sought to get 6,000 acres of Alaska coal lands instead of 320, permitted by law. These lands in question had been entered under the coal land laws of the United States, which applied to surveyed lands only. When a large number of persons undertook to enter lands under the act of 1900, which put in force in Alaska, coal land laws of the United States, they discovered that the United States coal land laws permitted entry of surveyed lands only, and none of the land in Alaska were surveyed at that time and the entries could not be made. In 1904 congress again enacted a law authorizing the entry of these lands under the coal land laws of the United States, but only gave the right to purchase them at $10 an acre where the discovery of coal had been made and a large amount of development of the land had been done. None of the lands, however, have been patented to any person or corporation."

PLAN TO REDEEM THE BONDS

Recommendation Made by Chairman Bedford of Finance Committee.

WHERE THE MONEY WAS SPENT

Says County Is Paying More Than Its Share of Expense of Operating the Consolidated Treasurer's Office.

Levy of a 5⅝ mills tax for the county's bond sinking fund for 1911, a levy that would produce a sum sufficient to redeem $150,000 of improvement fund in addition to paying interest on all other county bonds, will be ecommended by County Commissioner Jeff W. Bedford, chairman of the finance committee of the Board of County Commissioners. Whether or not Mr. Bedford's plan will meet with the approval of other members of the Board of County Commissioners is not known.

As outlined in his report as chairman of the finance committee, Mr. Bedford's plan is as follows:

Make a levy of 5⅝ mills for the bond sinking fund, bringing in approximately $225,000. Use this sum in redeeming $150,000 improvement bonds and in paying interest on other bonds outstanding.

No bonds mature between 1912 and 1918. Beginning in 1912 make annual levies sufficient to bring $50,000 a year into the bond sinking fund. This would make the fund so strong that beginning in 1918 an annual saving of $14,000 could be effected by bond redemptions and an additional saving of $2,000 a year would be accomplished by retirement of $50,000 of court house bonds each year after 1918.

Amount of the Levy.

Mr. Bedford's recommendations for the 1911 tax levy, made on a basis of a $40,000,000 valuation, which, with the exception of that regarding the bond sinking fund, are almost certain of adoption, follow:

Fund.	Mills.	Amount.
General	9	$360,000
Road	1⅞	75,000
Bridge	1 3-4	50,000
Bond sinking	5⅝	225,000
Soldiers' relief	3-4	10,000
Totals	18	$720,000
Less 15 per cent, estimated amount uncollectable		108,000
Total		$612,000
Less city's half of estimated collections for road fund		31,875
Total tax receipts for 1911		$580,125

Taxes May Be Less.

If Mr. Bedford's recommendation for a high bond sinking fund levy is approved the total levy of 18 mills will be in excess of last year's levy. If the bond sinking fund recommendation is rejected the total levy will be slightly less than that of last year. Cash on hand, in hands of county treasurer and in banks $726,597.80
Unpaid warrants outstanding 119,122.94

Where Money Was Spent.

During 1910 amounts were paid out of the several funds as follows:

Fund.	Amount.
General	$93,497.57
Road	45,526.31
Bridge	66,163.07
Bond sinking	61,535.10
Emergency bridge	9,961.68
Court house building	900,713.00
Permanent road	25,617.84
Total	$903,035.57

Refunding bonds in the sum of $158,000 matured January 1, 1911. Provision for their redemption was made by 1910 levy. These bonds represent the money used to aid the Union Pacific railroad in constructing the bridge over the Missouri river at Omaha in 1871.

Road improvement bonds of $150,000 mature in 1912. Provision for their redemption must be made in the 1911 levy.

The chairman recommends that efforts be made to secure changes in the law consolidating the offices of city and county treasurer. At present the expense of running the office rests chiefly upon the county. The county must pay largely for collections of money that finally reaches the city's coffers.

The Board of County Commissioners as the 1910 board, met for the last time Wednesday afternoon. Some odds and ends of business were disposed of and the board adjourned sine die. The new board will meet and reorganize January 16. John C. Lynch will take the place of Fred Fruning and Thomas O'Conner that of George Hauptman. Commissioner Bedford probably will be elected chairman of the board.

Bank at Sherman, S. D., Robbed.
SIOUX FALLS, S. D., Jan. 4.—The Sherman State bank of Sherman, a little town near here, was raided by robbers last night who escaped with $2,000 in cash.

Ice Harvest Well Under Way Nearby

Large Forces Put to Work Wednesday by the Various Companies.

Five hundred men started in Wednesday morning to cut Omaha's annual ice crop. Ice saws hummed and buzzed at Carter and Ralston lakes at the Burt street reservoir, at Memphis and at Ashland.

Under a smiling sun, with the weather just cool enough to give vigorous men a zest for the labor, the 500 or more plunged into their work, many of them happy over the prospect of getting some cold, hard dollars.

The Cudahy, Armour and Swift Packing companies and the Omaha Ice and Cold Storage company are the big ice cutters of Nebraska. The Cudahy company, which cuts at Seymour lake, will lay in 70,000 tons of ice if a good second crop is available. The Swift company cuts as much or more at Carter lake and at Ashland. Armour cuts at Memphis and the Omaha Ice and Cold Storage company at Carter lake and the Burt street and Florence reservoirs.

Work at all these places named except the Florence reservoir began Wednesday. The Omaha Ice and Cold Storage company also makes artificial ice, but its natural ice will come to better than 80,000 tons if the ice is there to be cut.

"Ten inches and good quality," is the word from all the places. This when cut out must needs freeze up deep again for a good second cut, which is necessary if ice houses are to be filled to capacity.

Three Little Boys Successful Bandits

Youngsters of Twelve Go Out with Guns and Masks and Rob Pedestrians.

Beware! The haughty boy bandits stalk abroad.

Three little boys, apparently between 12 and 14 years old, "stuck up" and robbed Eugene McClaney at Twenty-fifth and Pierce streets last night in the approved road agent style.

McClaney was on his way to his home, 2563 Pierce street, when the three boys, wearing masks, confronted him with guns. The largest boy of the trio searched the victim and took 40 cents from his pockets.

Descriptions have been given to the police.